

Message Text

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TO USDEL ACAPULCO IMMEDIATE

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TAGS: USDEL (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. FOLLOWING EVANS-NOVAK COLUMN APPEARED IN WASHINGTON POST TODAY, APRIL 4, 1974.

2. THE FIRST GLIMMERINGS OF A POTENTIALLY OMINOUS ATTACK AGAINST SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER BY PRO-ISRAEL HARDLINERS HAVE BEGUN APPEARING IN THIS COUNTRY'S ZIONIST PRESS, DEEPLY WORRYING MORE MODERATE JEWISH LEADERS.

3. MUTED CRITICISM OF THE FIRST JEWISH SECRETARY OF STATE BEGAN IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS BRILLIANT PERFORMANCE SEPARATING EGYPT AND ISRAEL IN JANUARY. THE ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA (ZOA), A HARD-LINE ZIONIST LOBBY, IN ITS FEBRUARY BULLETIN CRITICIZED THAT AGREEMENT AS "STRENGTHENING THE POSITION OF THE BELLIGERENT ARAB WORLD AND THE SOVIET UNION."

4- BY MARCH, ZOA NO LONGER MUTED ITS CRITICISM. DIRECTLY UNCLASSIFIED

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ATTACKING KISSINGER FOR THE FIRST TIME, IT NEXT CRITICIZED

THE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP OF ISRAEL ITSELF WHICH, IT SAID, REGARDS KISSINGER "AS A SECOND DISRAELI."

5. "IN THE UNITED STATES, ON THE OTHER HAND," THE BULLETIN CONTINUED, "JEWISH LEADERS, BOTH ZIONIST AND NON-ZIONIST, ARE JITTERY, WONDERING WHETHER HE IS NOT LEANING OVER BACKWARDS AS A JEW TO PLACATE THE ARABS AND THEIR SOVIET PROTECTORS".

6. THIS TOUGHENING ZOA LINE IN NO WAY REFLECTS OPINION IN THE POLITICAL CENTER OF THE POWERFUL AMERICAN-JEWISH COMMUNITY. BUT SOME OF THESE MODERATE JEWISH LEADERS NOW FEAR THIS MAY CHANGE AS A RESULT OF THE DANGEROUS INCREASE IN SYRIAN-ISRAELI MILITARY ACTIVITY ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS. KISSINGER'S PRESSURE FOR ISRAELI CONCESSIONS THERE COULD WIDEN ZOA'S ANTI-KISSINGER RIPPLE INTO A FAR BROADER ATTACK

7. KISSINGER HAS NEVER UNDERESTIMATED THE DELICACY OF HIS POSITION TOWARD THE AMERICAN-JEWISH COMMUNITY. HE HAS REMARKED PRIVATELY THAT IF EITHER THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT OR THE AMERICAN-JEWISH COMMUNITY EVER CONCLUDES THAT HE IS PUSHING ISRAEL TOO HARD, HE COULD BE OUTFLANKED.

8. ALTHOUGH THE MODERATE JEWISH LEADERSHIP'S POLITICAL ROOTS ARE DEEP IN THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY, IT GAVE PRESIDENT NIXON SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT FOR RE-ELECTION IN 1972 AND DECLARED A MORATORIUM ON CRITICISM OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S MIDEAST POLICIES WHEN THE YOM KIPPUR WAR BEGAN OCT. 6. NOW THAT TRUCE IS SHOWING SIGNS OF STRAIN, QUITE APART FROM THE HARD LINE POSITION OF THE ZOA.

9. AN EXAMPLE IS RABBI ISREAL MILLER, PRESIDENT OF THE ZIONIST FEDERATION OF AMERICA (AN UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION WHICH EMBRACES MANY ORGANIZATIONS). HE WAS LESS THAN ENTHUSIASTIC IN A STATEMENT LAST WEEK GIVING KISSINGER GOOD MARKS IN HANDLING BOTH THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT AND THE QUESTION OF EMIGRATION BY SOVIET JEWS. "WE HAVE NO COMPLAINTS FOR THE TIME BEING AGAINST KISSINGER," MILLER WAS QUOTED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY, "BUT THAT DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE ARE GOING TO FOLLOW HIM BLINDLY."

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10. KISSINGER HAS TRIED HARD TO KEEP THE AMERICAN-JEWISH COMMUNITY NEUTRALIZED IN HIS HAZARDOUS EFFORT TO REVERSE 25 YEARS OF AMERICAN DIPLOMACY. BUT IN HIS ZEAL TO PROVE U.S. GOOD FAITH TO ARAB LEADERS, HE OPENS THE DOOR - PROBABLY INEVITABLY - TO JEWISH COMPLAINTS THAT HE HAS GONE TOO FAR.

11. THUS, ZOA'S MARCH BULLETIN, IN A SARCASTIC ITEM, SAID THAT "THE KISSINGER CONTEST CURRENTLY UNDER WAY IN ARAB

CAPITALS" IS BEING LOST BY THE SOVIET UNION AND WON BY
KISSINGER - "A NEW SUITOR FOR EMBRACEMENT BY SHEIKS,
PRESIDENTS AND KINGS OF ARABIA."

12. CONSIDERING THE MODEST BORDER ADJUSTMENTS KISSINGER HA
MEDIATED SO FAR, THIS GIVES THE MEREST HINT OF WHAT HE CAN
EXPECT. ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM THE SUEZ CANAL WAS FAR LES
PAINFUL THAN OTHERS IN STORE FOR ISRAEL. KISSINGER IS NOW
CONCENTRATING ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS, BUT AFTER THAT COMES

THE EMOTIONAL QUESTION OF THE WEST BANK AND JERUSALEM.

13. HERE KISSINGER'S PROBLEM IS COMPOUNDED BY THE FLIMSY
STRUCTURE OF PRIME MINISTER GOLDA MEIR'S NEW GOVERNMENT.
AS A PRICE FOR GIVING HER A PARLIMENTARY MAJORITY, THE NEW
RELIGIOUS PARTY EXTRACTED THIS CONCESSION: NO CHANGE ON
THE WEST BANK (SAMARIA AND JUDEA) WITHOUT A PLEBISCITE.

14. MOREOVER, SOME JEWISH LEADERS HERE ARE CONVINCED
THAT ISRAEL'S TRUE INTERESTS - AND CERTAINLY THIS COUNTRY'S
REQUIRE MAJOR BORDER RECTIFICATIONS, INCLUDING ESTABLISHMENT
OF A PALESTINIAN STATE ON THE WEST BANK. IN TRYING TO ACHIEVE
THIS, THEY SEE ANOTHER TRAP FOR KISSINGER: PRESIDENT NIXON'S
OWN VULNERABILITY TO PRO-ISRAELI HARDLINERS IN CONGRESS WHOSE
VOTES HE NEEDS IN THE IMPEACHMENT BATTLE.

15. SO FAR, THERE IS NO DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN KISSINGER AND
THE PRESIDENT, WHO DESPERATELY NEEDS ANOTHER FOREIGN POLICY
TRIUMPH: POLITCAL SOLUTION OF THE 25-YEAR ARAB-ISRAELI WAR
TO GET IT, HE SEEMS WILLING TO TAKE LIMITED RISKS WITH HIS
HARD-LINE JEWISH CONSTITUENCY.

16. BUT EACH KISSINGER MOVE AHEAD WILL TIGHTEN BATTLE LINES
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AT HOME AND IN ISRAEL, POTENTIALLY SUBJECTING MR. NIXON TO
INCREASING POLITICAL THREATS. TO MANIPULATE AND CONTR
OL THESE PRESSURES MAY BE BEYOND ANYONE, EVEN SO SUBTLE A
DIPLOMAT AS DR. KISSINGER. THE RISING TIDE OF JEWISH
CRITICISM SHOWS THAT. (END TEXT) RUSH

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